

## Message Text

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47

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12 /097 W

----- 089415

R 311210Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6079

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 1842

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, MR, KN, KS

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: MAURITANIAN STANCE ON KOREA

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 1744

1. ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM BONN, WEST GERMAN AMBASSADOR VON MAGNUS MADE "CORE GROUP" PRESENTATION TO ACTING MINISTER STATE FOREIGN AFFFAIRS SIDI 'ABDALLAH JULY 27. AFTER REPORTING FRG HAD LEARNED THAT DPRK INTENDS TO MAKE MAJOR ISSUE OF KOREAN QUESTION AT COLOMBO, VON MAGNUS DECLARED FRG SUPPORT FOR KOREAN POSITION OUTLINED IN SECRETARY'S JULY 22 SPEECH, AND URGED GIRM TO WORK TO AVOID RHETORICAL DEBATE AND STERILE CONFRONTATION IN UPCOMING UNGA.

2. ACTING MINISTER RESPONDED HE HAD ONLY GENERAL KNOWLEDGE OF KOREA QUESTION GARNERED FROM FOREIGN MINISTER'S PRESENTATION TO COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND BRIEF DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED GIRM POLICY PAPER TO FORM APPROVAL OF MFA RECOMMEN-

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DATION. HE DID DECLARE, HOWEVER, THAT GIRM FAVORS

DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN DPRK AND ROK LEADING TO PEACEFUL SOLUTION. 'ABDALLAHI CAUTIONED THAT GIRM STILL RECALLS EARLIER DAY WHEN NORTH KOREA WAS CLOSE AND SOLID FRIEND, AND WOULD AS CONSEQUENCE NOT RPT NOT SUPPORT NEGOTIATING EFFORT WHICH CALLED ON DPRK TO DO ALL THE COMPROMISING. ACTING MINISTER STATED HE WOULD SEE TO IT THAT REPORT OF FRG AMBASSADOR'S APPROACH WAS ON TOP OF WORK STACK WAITING FOR FOREIGN MINISTER'S RETURN FROM RABAT MEETING AND SHORT MOROCCAN VACATION.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER OULD MOUKNASS CONVOKED VON MAGNUS NOON JULY 30. HE REPEATED DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS STANCE WHICH ACTING MINISTER HAD OUTLINED TO FRG AMBASSADOR, HE REITERATED PHILOSOPHICAL ARGUMENT HE SET FORTH TO ME EARLIER (REFTEL) THAT GIRM COULD NOT MAKE DRASIC CHANGE IN ITS KOREA POLICY ALL AT ONCE. AFTER BEING AS VAGUE ABOUT FORMAL ABSTENTION VS PHYSICAL ABSENCE WITH VON MAGNUS AS HE HAD BEEN WITH ME, MOUKNASS REVEALED NEW ELEMENT OF GIRM UNGA TACTICS: HE DECLARED THAT GIRM PLANS TO WORK ACTIVELY AGAINST INSCRIPTION OF KOREAN ITEM ON UNGA AGENDA. MOUKNASS THEN LAUNCHED INTO SPIRITED CRITICISM OF DPRK FOR POSITION IT HAD TAKEN ON SAHARA, AND CLOSED THIS SEGMENT OF CONVERSATION ON THAT NOTE.

4. TACTICAL DECISION TO OPPOSE INSCRIPTION OF KOREAN QUESTION IS VINTAGE MAURITANIAN CONFRONTATION AVOIDANCE. BY ASSERTING TIME HAS COME TO SUBSTITUTE DIRECT TALKS BETWEEN PARTIES FOR GA DEBATE BY ON-LOOKERS, GIRM HOPES TO HIDE ITS INTENSE DESIRE TO SIDESTEP VOTE-IMPOSED PUBLIC POSITION TAKING BEHIND MASK OF INTERNATIONAL STATESMANSHIP.

5. WITH FRENCH TRANSLATION OF SECRETARY'S JULY 22 SPEECH AT LAST IN HAND TOGETHER WITH GREEN LIGHT ON KOREA AIDE-MEMOIRE, I HAVE REQUESTED APPOINTMENT WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS FOR AUGUST 2 MAKE PARALLEL U.S. APPROACH ON KOREAN QUESTION.

HANDYSIDE

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